

What is the **purpose** of writing an argumentative essay?

- An essay in which you **agree or disagree** with an issue (clearly take a stand).
- Your goal is to **convince / persuade** your reader that your opinion is right.
- What is unique is that you do not just give reasons to support your point of view, but also **discuss the other side's reasons** and then **rebut** them.

### **Language:**

Signposts gain importance in the argumentative essay. They enable the readers to follow our arguments easily.

1. When pointing out opposing arguments:
  - Opponents of this idea claim / maintain that ...
  - Those who disagree / are against these ideas may say / assert that ...
  - Some people may disagree with this idea.
2. When stating specifically why they think like that:
  - They put forward this idea because ...
  - They claim that ... since ...
3. Reaching the turning point:
  - However,
  - But
  - On the other hand,
4. When refuting the opposing idea, we may use the following strategies:
  - (a) compromise but prove that their argument is not powerful enough:
    - They have a point in thinking like that.
    - To a certain extent they are right, but...
  - (b) completely disagree
    - With this sort of evidence, there is no way we can agree with what they say.
  - (c) say that their argument is irrelevant to the topic:
    - What we are discussing here is not what they are trying to prove.
    - Their argument is irrelevant.

## **Physical punishment for children: Should it be avoided?**

There have been big changes in the attitudes of most parents over the last few years. Very few parents would agree with using force regularly as a way of dealing with discipline problems in their children. Physical punishment is also banned in schools in most countries, and in many countries, there are moves to ban all corporal punishment of children even in the home. However, there are still parents who believe that they have a right to use some physical punishment to deal with certain misbehaviors at certain ages. **Although these parents think that physical punishment is necessary, I believe that physical punishment is unacceptable today.**

**Proponents of physical punishment argue that** this was the way they were brought up themselves and that it didn't do any harm to them. They believe that for the child's sake that they have the right to discipline the child in any way they see fit, including using corporal punishment. **Such an argument clearly shows that** most parents are not trained to deal with misbehaving children. They do not have enough resources or choices to handle the situation. As a result, they immediately react by smacking or hitting the child, even if there are other solutions to the problem. **Parents who support physical punishment also fail to acknowledge the fact that** they are continuing the cycle of violence. Unless people are challenged or forced to change their beliefs, they may keep following negative habits. An example is seatbelt use - now most people wear seat belts without thinking, whereas years ago the idea of using safety belts was strange to most people. In the same way, banning physical punishment in the home will allow people to change their habits and break a cycle of violence.

**Another argument advanced by proponents of physical punishment is that** hitting the child can be quick and effective. They are convinced that there is not much point reasoning with a screaming child in the supermarket. However, what is clearly worrying is the fact that if all parents are allowed to hit their children in the name of discipline, some parents will go too far and will inflict severe emotional and physical damage on their children. Therefore, it can be said that the most obvious reason for banning all physical punishment of children is to prevent child abuse. Although it may only be a small minority of parents, we need to protect all our children.

In conclusion, it is evident that physical punishment does not reap any benefits. Therefore, it is important that parents change some of their beliefs and ideas about how children should be raised. Nevertheless, it is fair to admit that most parents are reasonable, and very few would ever consider hurting their children by using unnecessary physical force. **Thus, in my opinion, physical punishment must be avoided in the home, and in doing so will help us move closer to our dream of removing violence from society.**